



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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REMINDER TO GULF OF MEXICO COMMERCIAL GROUPEL FISHERMEN OF A GROUPEL FISHERY CONTROL DATE AND LANDINGS HISTORY

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) would like to remind fishermen about an existing October 15, 2004, control date for potential eligibility requirements in the Gulf of Mexico commercial grouper fishery.

What is a control date?

A control date is a date chosen by a fishery management council and may be used by the council or NOAA Fisheries Service as an eligibility criterion allowing future access to fisheries, or sectors of fisheries. Control date notices let fishermen know the council is considering future actions to restrict access to the fishery and are intended to discourage speculative entry into a fishery.

What is the purpose of the October 15, 2004, control date?

This control date was established in 2004 by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) as they began considering an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program to control participation and effort in the commercial grouper fishery. If the Gulf Council chooses to establish a grouper IFQ program, they could choose to use only those landings that occurred prior to the October 15, 2004, control date as an eligibility criterion. The Gulf Council is still evaluating management alternatives and has not yet chosen a management strategy to control participation and effort in the commercial grouper fishery.

Is it possible this control date could change or not be used?

Yes, the Gulf Council may choose a different control date or a management regime that does not

make use of a control date. The Gulf Council may or may not make use of this control date as part of the qualifying criteria for participation in any future IFQ or other management program for the Gulf of Mexico grouper fishery. Establishment of a control date does not commit the Gulf Council or NOAA Fisheries Service to any particular management regime or criteria for eligibility in the commercial grouper fishery. Fishermen are not guaranteed future participation in a fishery regardless of their entry date or intensity of participation in the fishery before or after the control date under consideration. The Gulf Council also may choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the fisheries, in which case the control date may be rescinded.

If an individual is considering purchasing a commercial Gulf reef fish permit should he or she be aware of the landings associated with that permit?

Fishermen who are interested in purchasing limited entry federal permits from another individual, such as the commercial Gulf reef fish permit, should know the landings history associated with the permit(s). The landings history may be used as an eligibility requirement for future fishery programs, such as an IFQ program.

How can I obtain the landings history associated with a permit?

If a fisherman wishes to obtain landings data specific to his/her permit, a landings data request form can be downloaded from the following Web site: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/permits.htm> or obtained from the permits branch at the address below. Fishermen requesting landings history from

previous permit holders must provide original signed waivers from all of the previous permit holders that authorize the release of the previous permit holders' landings data. Please submit the original request forms to:

NOAA Fisheries Service
NMFS Permits Branch
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
727-824-5326

Where can I find information about control dates for other fisheries?

For more information regarding previous control dates, please read Fishery Bulletin [FB06-057](#) dated November 30, 2006.

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins please contact:

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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please email us at the address below. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

E-mail: sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov
and include:

1. "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line.
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